

Parish Information Sheet



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For use by Somerset Council

From:	Mike O'Dowd-Jones Service Director Infrastructure and Highways
Date:	5th September 2025
To:	All City, Town and Parish Councils

Consultation on Sunday parking charges

Introduction

A public consultation on proposals to introduce Sunday charges in Somerset Council car parks starts today - Monday 8 September.

There are currently different charging principles applied across the county's 200+ Council-run car parks, and the system has not been reviewed since Somerset Council came into being in 2023. The Sunday charging proposals are the start of a process aimed at harmonising charging practices across the county.

The proposal to consult on Sunday charges, approved by Executive earlier in the year, gives the public and businesses a chance to have their say before any final decision is taken.

Key facts

- Under the previous councils there were different approaches to Sunday charges.
- That means there are currently Sunday charges at many car parks, including for example in Watchet, Minehead, Wells, Glastonbury, Frome, Cheddar and Williton. However, there are no Sunday charges in car parks in Taunton, Wellington, Bridgwater, Chard, Crewkerne, Yeovil and Highbridge.
- The aim of the proposal is to bring consistency across Somerset while also ensuring the parking service continues to be completely self-funded to cover staffing, serving and administering penalty notices, and managing and maintaining car parks to a high level.
- **The consultation starts on 8 September, runs for six weeks and closes 20 October. The public and businesses can have their say here once the consultation goes live:**
<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/parking/copy-of-consultation>
- The responses will form part of a report for the Council's Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee.
- This will then be considered before final decisions are taken at Executive on 3 December.
- If agreed any changes would come into effect in early 2026.

The Council's Executive also committed to public consultation on the potential introduction of on-street charging (after a free 30-minute stopover) and charging in free car parks.

These proposals will be developed following further engagement on an area by area basis with local members and town and parish councils, and further public consultation. Further information on this will follow at a later date.

The aim is to ensure a consistent approach to charging across all Somerset's towns and villages.

For more Information, please contact: parking@somerset.gov.uk